

## Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends prize-giving for wooden carving competitions

YANGON, 8 Dec — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended a prize-giving ceremony for wooden carving competitions held here Sunday.

Among those attending the event at the cooperative business centre were union ministers, the Yangon Region's chief minister, senior department officials and the contestants.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan delivered the opening speech at the ceremony, followed by the explanation of a panel of judges for the competition.

A total of 150 sculptures were entered in the competition under two genres of free style and modern style, and each category had four levels of prizes with a total of 19 awards worth K15.5 million plus gold coins.

The sculpture competition has been held every



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views Myanmar handicrafts and sculptures at Cooperative Business Centre.—MNA

year since 2009, except for 2011.

Before the ceremony, Dr Sai Mauk Kham and

senior government officials looked around the traditional artifacts displayed at the building.—MNA

## Education Ministry reopens historic hostels at YIE, YU, which allow about 400 students for 2014-15 academic year

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 8 Dec — Two hostels were reopened Monday for female students of Yangon University who live on the outskirts of the municipality, especially in

rural regions, and they will be allowed to stay there based on their university entrance numbers, according to the Ministry of Education.

The reopening of the historic Malar and Thiri hostels is aimed at creating an international-level atmosphere. Educators believe it can help the students to develop their skills and abilities. Union Minister

for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi said hostels can help students forge friendships and develop habits of co-operation and unity during their university days.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, priority is being given to first-year students, who will have double rooms. The two hostels accepted such students as of 1 December.

Malar Hostel is scheduled to accept about 250 economic students and Thiri will take in more than 130 students from all majors including foreign learners. Both hostels are located on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township in Yangon.

Dr Khin Naing Oo, rector of Yangon University of Economics (YUE), said that WiFi network installation at Malar Hostel is expected to be finished within a month, adding that it also planning to provide library and fitness services, which will be available soon.

(See page 2)

## Last Stop of Coca-Cola Happiness Journey—Mandalay

Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 8 Dec — The highly anticipated Coca-Cola Happiness Journey stopped in Mandalay, Myanmar at Shan Field on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Popular Myanmar artists Sai Sai Kham Leng, Bunny Phyto, Eaint Chit and Mi Sandi treated attendees to performances of their hit songs as they took to the stage in the name of the Coca-Cola “Uplifting Break” experience.

It was the second time Coca-Cola brought its Happiness Journey to Mandalay. Thousands of attendees joined Coca-Cola to take a break from their busy schedules and enjoy the entertaining concerts, singing and dancing along with their favorite artists.

To beat the afternoon sun, the signature convoy of Coca-Cola trucks delivered

(See page 2)

## Universities of Medicines, medical universities to open first year courses on 22 December

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec —The Medical Science Department under the Ministry of Health issued an announcement on Monday that the first year courses for 2014-15 academic year of universities of medicine and other medical-related universities will be opened on 22 December. The respective universities will admit enrolment of students as of 16 December and will announce the entrance list of students.—MNA



Malar Hostel of Yangon University of Economics.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

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## Labour ministry, overseas job agencies discuss welfare of migrant workers

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation held a collaboration meeting here Monday on the welfare of migrant workers abroad.

At the meeting, U Aye Myint, Union Minister for MLESS said that his ministry has been cooperating with overseas employment agencies and labour diplomats of respective countries when Myanmar migrant workers experienced some problems.

He also urged the respective labour agencies to take responsibility for the migrants who went abroad

through their agencies in accordance with the agreement, as well to keep in mind that they are fellow Myanmar citizens.

U Aye Myint also noted that all the overseas employment agencies should focus on collaborative measures to protect Myanmar workers abroad.

Labour experts from Myanmar and Thailand will hold a meeting on 11 and 12 December on the welfare of Myanmar workers in the neighboring country's notorious fishing industry, where migrant workers are facing many problems with the documentation process, money transfer and labour abuse.

Myanmar will also celebrate International Migrants Day on 18 December with the inspiration to promote social and economic welfare of migrant workers in the ASEAN region.—MNA

**Union Minister U Aye Myint meets entrepreneurs from Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation.—MNA**



## Union minister visits relief camps in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— The government has spent over K1,600 million on undertaking socio-economic tasks in Rakhine State in 2013-14 fiscal year and K1,100 million in 2014-15 fiscal year, Chairman of Rakhine State Socio-economic Development Work Committee and Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint said at the meeting with victims at Setyonsu relief camp in Sittway, capital of Rakhine State, on Sunday.

The union minister disclosed that a plan is under way to supply electricity to major cities in Rakhine State as of 15 December. He said arrangements are being made for establishment of industrial zones in Ponnagayun and Kyaukpyu

townships as part of efforts to build an industrialized nation.

As the peace and stability and development of public socio-economy are interrelated, the people are to build the trust between the communities in the state and try hard to uplift their living standard, he noted.

The union minister donated K2 million to the fund of Setyonsu relief camp and fulfilled the requirement of a dispensary from the camp.

He also provided K1 million and two tuk-tuks to Thetkaybyin Bengali relief camp through officials and viewed healthcare services at Thetkaybyin rural health branch.

MNA

## Workshop on structural design and management of EOC held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, who also chairs the Management Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Preparedness at National Level, made a speech at the opening ceremony of a workshop on structural design and management mod-

el of the Emergency Operation Centre at the Shwe Nan Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

In her speech, she said the management committee and 11 sub-committees are carrying out disaster management tasks under the guidance of a vice president who chairs the national natural disaster prevention central committee

and urged partner organizations to cooperate in the construction of buildings for the Emergency Operation Centre, which was established in 2011, and in natural disaster management tasks.

Then, Ms Virginia Murray, deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy in Myanmar, Mr Kyosuke Inada, senior representative

of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Ms Carrie Howard, head of the Coordination Support Section of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs explained cooperation programs.

The workshop will last five days and 60 participants will take part in the discussions.—MNA

## Last Stop of Coca-Cola ...

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refreshing, ice-cold Coca-Cola. Attendees took their turn at the interactive Brrr game and won prizes such as Coca-Cola hats and bags. The event photo-booth captured moments of happiness and fun between friends and families.

This was the last stop of the Coca-Cola Happiness Journey for 2014. For the latest information on Coca-Cola Myanmar activities, please visit [www.facebook.com/CocaCola-Myanmar](http://www.facebook.com/CocaCola-Myanmar).



A vocalist presents songs to audience.

## Education Ministry reopens ...

(from page 1)

She said that new hostels for next comers are being constructed on the YUE campus and are expected to be completed in March.

The government mainly sponsored the renovation of the Malar Hostel, while former students donated furniture. Officials wel-

come the further contribution of donors to continue the renovation of hostels, in which female economic students have been allowed to stay since 1964.

A plan is under way to manage the funds for renovation of hostels under the YUE by forming a fund management committee, the rector said.

Plans are also under way to construct two new hostels at Hline Universities' campus in Yangon to accommodate an estimated 400 students each year.

Authorities are planning to add furniture for

the hostels and laboratory equipment, as well as publications for all universities.

Daw Swe Swe Aung of Yangon University elaborated on the budget of the Education Ministry, saying that since the education reform in 2011, the government has spent a huge amount of funds. So far, she said, 4 out of about 6 billion kyats earmarked for 2013-14 year have been spent on education reform.

Currently, the ministry has opened 11 hostels for university students in Yangon and there are more than 6,000 learners in this academic year.

GNLM



Already-reopened Thiri Hostel on the campus of Yangon University.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA  
LWIN



## NATIONAL

## Amyotha Hluttaw speaker visits cultural training centres, comforts patients in Pyawbwe, Yamethin Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint donated cash to a fund for education and philanthropic organizations in Pyawbwe and Yamethin townships, Mandalay Region, on Sunday.

While in Pyawbwe, the speaker also visited a cultural course being conducted at Yapyae Sasana Beikman and Hmannan monasteries and donated K10 million to a fund for renovation of Panson Monastery.

He comforted patients at the township's People's Hospital and gave glasses

to patients who have undergone eye surgical operations.

In the afternoon, the speaker attended the ceremony to provide cash assistance to education and social organizations at a hall in Pyawbwe. He awarded outstanding trainees at the cultural course and presented K13.5 million to the social organizations and to Dr Khin Shwe, chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Rescue and Care Committee, 78,000 notebooks to schools and K3 million to Pyawbwe Township Sasana Nuggaha Association.

On Sunday, the speaker visited cultural training centres at halls in Yamethin. He gave glasses to eye surgery patients at Yamethin People's Hospital.

The speaker gave K3 million to District Sasana Nuggaha Association, K3 million to Township Sasana Nuggaha Association, K18 million to social organizations, 72,000 notebooks to schools, K1 million to a medical treatment fund and K2 million to a township cultural course.

Under the leadership of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, medical



**Speaker U Khin Aung Myint presents K18 million to philanthropic organizations' fund in Yamethin Township through an official.—MNA**

personnel of Pyawbwe Township treated over 1,400 patients, performed eye surgery on over 70

patients and gave eye examinations to about 500 patients. Likewise, those of Yamethin Township treated

over 2,000 patients, operated on the eyes about 200 patients and examined over 1,500 eye patients.—MNA

## Deputy Speaker meets faculty members, students



YANGON, 8 Dec — Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) U Nanda Kyaw Swa on Monday morning met faculty members, departmental officials and students at the convocation hall of Yangon East University.

The university's rector, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Khoun, extended greetings. The deputy speaker explained facts about the Myanmar Education Law and replied to queries raised by those present.

*Khin Cho Win*

**Deputy Speaker  
U Nanda Kyaw Swa  
explains Myanmar  
Education Law.**

MNA

## Union FM receives Under Secretary-General of UN-OHRLS, Brazilian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Chairman of the United Nations and International Organizations Relations Sub-Committee for Myanmar's graduation from LDC status, received Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OCHRLS) who is currently in the country at the invitation of Myanmar in his office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 Decem-

ber 2014 morning. At the meeting, Union Minister discussed and exchanged views on possible technical assistance and expertise on Myanmar's efforts towards graduation from LDC status.

The Union Minister hosted a dinner to Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya and party at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The union minister also received Brazil's ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Alcides Gastao Rostand Prates, at the ministry on Monday and discussed promotion of relations and co-operation between the two countries.—MNA

## Training course turns out tailors in Sittway



**Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win speaking at concluding ceremony of tailoring course.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — An advanced tailoring course, conducted by Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs, concluded in Sittway, capital of Rakhine State, on Sunday.

At the conclusion ceremony, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win spoke about equitable development of towns and villages in Rakhine State and explained his ministry's undertakings to develop human resources and improve socio-economic status of the people.

He presented certificates to trainees and cash assistance for students from Khe-mamandaing School in Sittway Township and Nathataung School in Taungpyo Letwe Sub-Township.

Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn explained the purpose of conducting the vocational courses and gave cash assistance to philanthropic schools in Maungtaung, Kyauktaw and Buthidaung townships. About 200 trainees attended the 12-week course. The ministry provided one sewing machine each to all trainees to support their livelihoods.—MNA



**Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin holds talks with Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya, U.N. Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS).—MNA**



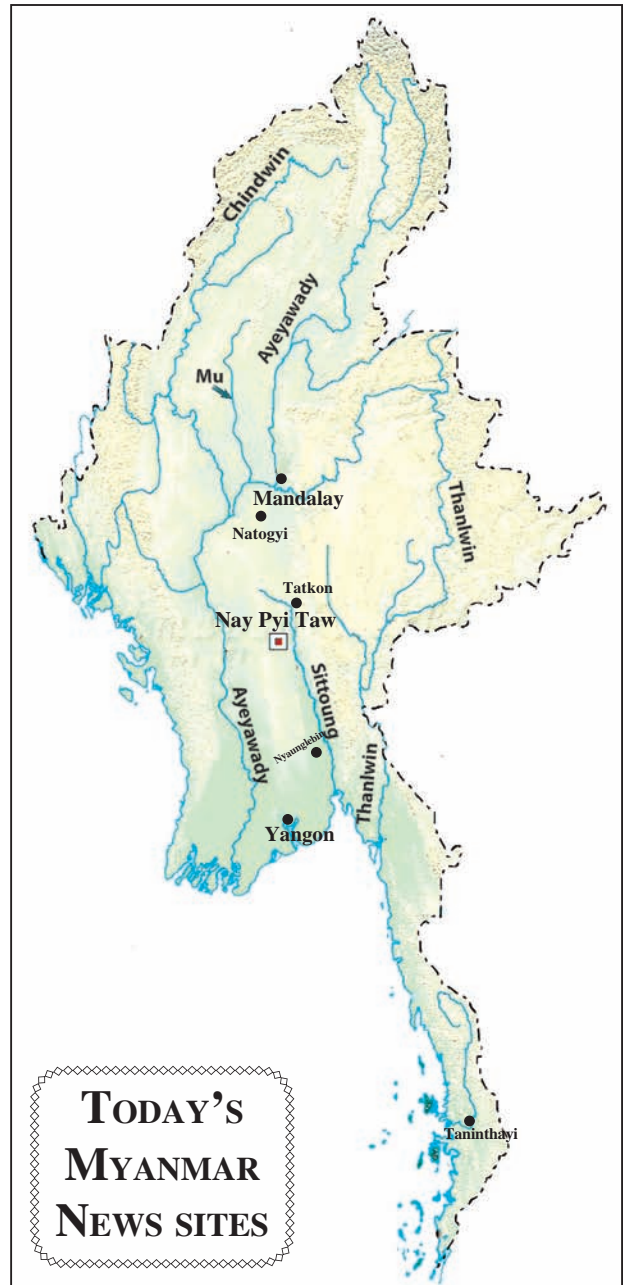
## Performers present traditional dances, songs to tourists



MANDALAY, 8 Dec—Mandalay Region government and Fine Arts Department (Mandalay Branch) of the Ministry of Culture jointly conducted a Myanmar traditional performing concert at the National Theatre on 66<sup>th</sup> Street in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 6 December evening.

Artists from the Fine Arts Department performed traditional dances, songs, magic, operas and drama for globetrotters and enthusiasts.

*Thiha Ko Ko*  
(Mandalay)



## MEHL introduces MEC CDMA800 MHz into the market

MANDALAY, 8 Dec —Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd sells its MEC CDMA800 MHz SIM cards packed in modern design at Elite mobile phone shops in Mandalay. The customers must show IDs to purchase three SIMs at K1,500 each and one top-up card worth K10,000.

Customers prefer to use MEC CDMA 800

MHz due to better Internet access. The SIM cards do not connect with Internet like Ooredoo and Telenor SIM cards. Users must pay K10,000 for the Internet linkage.

SIM cards of Ooredoo, Telenor and MPT are sold at the Mandalay mobile phone market.

*Thiha Ko Ko*  
(Mandalay)



## Dahatgon Sugar Mill in Tatkon to crushes 66,000 tons of sugarcane in 2014-15 FY



TATKON, 8 Dec — Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe and officials of Nay Pyi Taw Industrial Crops Development Department met officials and local sugarcane growers at Dahatgon Sugar Mill in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council

Area, on 6 December.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Industrial Crops Development Department U Toe Win and the manager of Dahatgon Sugar Mill reported on a plan to purchase 66,000 tons of sugarcane in 2014, arrangements to crush sugar-

cane weighing 1,200 tons daily, tasks of sugarcane purchase centres, cultivable lands and difficulties in work.

Officials fulfilled the requirements of the sugar mill and local growers.

*Tin Soe Lwin*  
(Tatkon IPRD)

## Mandalarians join mass sports activities on 6 December

MANDALAY, 8 Dec—Mandalay Region Government and Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports organized the mass sports activity in Mandalay for ensuring fitness and health among the citizenry.

On 6 December, departmental personnel, trainees of Mandalay Edu-

cation College and University of Nursing, basic education students, teachers, and local people totalling over 12,000 participated in the mass sports activity from the Mingala Bridge of Mandalay Royal Palace at the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> streets in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, and walked along 26<sup>th</sup> street to

66<sup>th</sup> street. They then proceeded to Thidhamma Public Rest House at the corner of 66<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> streets.

At 7 am, students from basic education schools took part in the traditional sports events, supervised by the district deputy commissioner and officials.

*Thiha Ko Ko*  
(Mandalay)





## REGIONAL

## India opposition ends parliament standoff over minister's speech

NEW DELHI, 8 Dec — India's parliament returned to business on Monday after the opposition dropped its demand for the sacking of a government minister for an alleged hate speech, raising hopes that lawmakers will move forward with reform legislation. The upper house of parliament - where the opposition commands a majority - has been paralysed for nearly a week after junior food processing minister Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti made derogatory remarks about non-Hindus at a campaign rally. The breakthrough came at an all-party meeting where representatives agreed to be civil in public speeches and uphold the secular constitution of the country. "We want parliament to function peacefully," said parliament affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration is hoping to win support in the upper house for a bill to lift foreign ownership caps in insurance joint ventures from 26 percent to 49 percent in the current session of parliament that ends this month. But Jyoti's comments that voters must "decide whether you want a government of those born of (Hindu god) Ram, or those born illegitimately", reinforced fears that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party was stoking communal divisions to build political support.

Reuters

## Typhoon Hagupit kills 21 on Samar island — Philippine Red Cross

MANILA, 8 Dec — At least 21 people were reported dead, many of them drowned as flood waters rose in Borongan, the main town in Eastern Samar, where typhoon Hagupit made first landfall, the Philippine National Red Cross said on Monday.

The Philippines had evacuated more than a million people as the powerful typhoon approached the country from the Pacific, fearing a repeat of a super storm last year that left more than 7,000 dead

or missing. "We have confirmed reports that 21 people died in Eastern Samar, 16 of them in Borongan," said Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general of the Philippine National Red Cross.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Manila confirmed only two dead and three injured. Two others were reported killed outside Samar, the third largest island in the Philippines, since Hagupit hit on Saturday night.

Reuters

## Thai rubber farmers to protest over low prices

BANGKOK, 8 Dec — Thai farmers plan protests to force the military government to provide more support for rubber prices and will take to the streets this week in defiance of martial law, a spokesman for farmers' groups said on Monday.

Martial law has been in place since May and prohibits all protests and political gatherings of more than five people. The army staged a coup later in May to end months of political unrest.

Soontorn Rakrong, a spokesman for 14 groups based in the south, said some farmers in the world's top rubber producer had

killed themselves because the government had failed to soften the blow from a collapse in rubber prices.

Weak demand, particularly from top rubber importer China, amid a supply glut has pushed global prices down to five-year lows. Thailand's benchmark unsmoked rubber sheet (USS3), which farmers sell to factories, was quoted at 43 baht (83p) per kg on Monday.

"Some people have hanged themselves because they can't stand it any more," Soontorn told Reuters. "The production cost is 65 baht per kg but the mar-

ket price is 40 baht."

Deputy Agriculture Minister Amnuay Patisse said measures to push the price of USS3 rubber up to 60 baht per kg were under way. These include direct buying of rubber from producers, while the government has also promised handouts to farmers.

"We will start buying above market prices to push up rubber prices but I can't say when the price will reach 60 baht per kg," Amnuay told Reuters.

Farmers are unhappy with the state's measures and are demanding that the government find ways to

ensure they get 80 baht per kg for USS3 rubber, Soontorn said.

Rubber groups plan to demonstrate in the south on Tuesday while Soontorn will head to Government House in Bangkok with a few other representatives to try to speak to ministers.

He called for the removal of Finance Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula and Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Pitipong Pungboon Na Ayudhya because of their failure to cushion the blow from the slump in prices. Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, which produce nearly 70

percent of the world's natural rubber, agreed in November to "manage" exports to curb supply along with other measures to support the market, to little effect so far. The military-led government postponed a debate on a draft rubber law last month after coming under pressure from farmers' groups to scrap the bill because, they said, it would do nothing to help smaller producers.

However, Amnuay said the draft would be reintroduced for debate in the National Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

Reuters

## Six die as heavy snow hits wide areas of Japan



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 8 Dec, 2014, shows a Self-Defence Forces helicopter hovering above a community in the western Japanese town of Tsurugi, which was isolated following heavy snow, so rescue workers could confirm the safety of residents. The heavy snow has left six people dead and hundreds affected by disruptions to transport.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 8 Dec — Heavy snow blanketed wide areas of Japan on Monday, leaving at least six people dead and hundreds affected by disruptions to transport, local authorities said.

In some towns in Tokushima Prefecture in western Japan, more than 1,200 people were cut off temporarily as roads were blocked by fallen trees, with some 650 people still isolated as of Monday afternoon following heavy snowfall that began late last week.

In the town of Tsurugi in the prefecture, 98-year-old Misako Furukawa, who was found in critical condition at her home earlier on Monday, was confirmed dead. The cause of her death is not known.

The deaths of two people were confirmed on Saturday in Tokushima after they were found collapsed on snow-covered ground near the peak of Mt Kotsu.

Four more people were confirmed dead on Sunday in Toyama and Fukui prefectures along the Sea of Japan in traffic accidents that are believed have been triggered by heavy snow.

On Monday, the Ground Self-Defence Force resumed work to remove snow and fallen trees that have disrupted traffic and electricity in two Tokushima towns since Friday. In the Tohoku and Hokuriku regions in north-eastern and central Japan, snowfall exceeded 1 metre at one point.

Kyodo News



Strong winds and waves brought by Typhoon Hagupit pound the seawall in Legazpi City, Albay Province southern Luzon on 7 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS



## S Korea pushing for trilateral summit with Japan, China



President Park Geun-hye

SEOUL, 8 Dec — President Park Geun-hye said on Monday that South Korea is working to realize a trilateral summit with Japan and China and establish a framework of trust in East Asia that has been undermined by frictions between Japan and its two Asian neighbours.

“The establishment of a framework of trust and cooperation in the East Asian region, including the Korean Peninsula, is very

important for the whole world to move into a more peaceful and secure future,” Park said in a speech at the seventh World Policy Conference.

“It’s important for Korea, China and Japan to gather forces together for multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia, given their unique role and status,” Park said in remarks released by the South Korean presidential office.

“The South Korean

government wants to make efforts to arrange a summit among the three countries in the near future on the basis of a foreign ministers’ meeting,” she said.

Diplomatic ties between Japan and South Korea have been strained by historical issues involving Japan’s colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910-1945, including the issue of Korean women who South Korea says were coerced to work in wartime

Japanese military brothels.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first talks since they took office last month in Beijing on the sidelines of a regional leaders’ forum amid lingering tension over disagreements on territorial and history-related issues.

Abe and Park have not held a formal summit. South Korea has urged Japan to address the so-called “comfort women” issue be-

fore Park meets with Abe bilaterally.

Since 2008, South Korea, Japan and China have held five trilateral summits independently from other multilateral meetings. But none has taken place since Abe came to power in December 2012.

Since 1999, the three countries had also often held trilateral summits on the occasion of the ASEAN-related summit meeting.—*Kyodo News*

## Serbia does not give up on EU or territorial integrity



KRUPANJ, 8 Dec — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Sunday that Serbia does not give up on its European path or its territorial integrity.

Serbia is trying to pursue a responsible policy, a policy in the interest of the people, said Vucic answering a reporter’s question about Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic’s position that recognition of Kosovo’s independence will be set by Brussels as a condition for continuation of Serbia’s European path.

Vucic said that Serbia is on the European path and that it cooperates with everyone in the world.

Serbia is becoming an important factor, not only in the region, but also throughout Europe owing to its responsible politics, Vucic said during a visit to Krupanj, western Serbia.

Serbia will fulfill its European obligations and cooperate with its friends, both in the east and the west, he said.

“Thanks to the responsible approach of our government, there is sometimes a dose of envy in some countries that were way ahead of Serbia, and now according to forecasts, including those by very conservative institutions such as the IMF, it is clear that in a few years they would not be ahead of Serbia” he said.

“Therefore, it is not strange that you are often responding to accusations that have no sense or questions that you do not understand fully,” Vucic said.

Many demagogic and populist critics of the government say that the public sector salaries have dropped, but they went down because nothing was done in the previous years, said Vucic.—*Tanjug*

## 17 die in Nepal bus accident

KATHMANDU, 8 Dec — Seventeen people died after an apparently overloaded bus crashed on a mountainous road in western Nepal, police said on Monday.

The precise cause of the crash was not immediately known, but poor roads and inadequate vehicle maintenance are often blamed for the frequency of road accidents in Nepal. The government has also been facing calls to implement stricter screening when issuing licenses for drivers of public vehicles due to cases of driver negligence.—*Kyodo News*

## California police fire gas after protesters hurl objects

BERKELEY, 8 Dec — Protesters in northern California hurled objects at police, who responded by firing gas for a second consecutive night, as demonstrations continued over the death of a black man after he was put in a chokehold by a police officer in New York.

A crowd of about 750 demonstrators swarmed freeway overpasses at two locations in Berkeley, near San Francisco, prompting police to move in to clear the roadways and arrest several people.

The California Highway Patrol’s Golden Gate division said on its Twitter feed that gas was fired after some demonstrators began hurling objects it described as unspecified “explosives,” and arrests had been made, but exact numbers were not available.

Some demonstrators said on Twitter that police had fired rubber bullets, but this could not be confirmed.

West Coast cities had braced for trouble after clashes in nearby Berkeley and Seattle, Washington on Saturday. Protesters in New York and other cities have staged demonstrations every day since a grand jury’s decision on Wednesday not to bring criminal charges against the white police officer whose chokehold contributed to the man’s death in New York in July.

Saturday’s looting and rock-throwing on the West Coast contrasted with the mostly peaceful demonstrations that have taken place elsewhere. New York was quieter over the weekend.

The killings of Eric

Garner in New York and Michael Brown, an unarmed black teen, in Ferguson, Missouri, have highlighted the strained relations between police and African-Americans and rekindled a national debate over US race relations.

The decision by a grand jury not to return an indictment in Brown’s killing ignited two nights of arson and rioting in the St Louis suburbs.

Earlier on Sunday evening hundreds of protesters began marching down a main thoroughfare in Berkeley after massing on the campus of the University of California.

Officer Jenn Coats of the Berkeley Police Department said the crowd, estimated at 500 to 600, was peaceful.

On Saturday evening, what had begun as a peaceful march ended in an ex-

tended confrontation between demonstrators and police, resulting in six arrests, damage to local businesses and a minor injury to a police officer.

“There were definitely a group of people that were intent on violence,” Coats said.

In downtown Seattle, about 200 people gathered on Sunday evening, a day after a demonstration drew more than 1,000 protesters, with some throwing rocks and attacking police in clashes that resulted in seven arrests. Their numbers had dwindled to about 60 by 10 pm with only one arrest.

New York Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said on Sunday the department’s internal investigation into Garner’s death could last four months. He said he would review the results to decide if officers

involved in Garner’s arrest had violated department policy. The Justice Department is doing its own investigation.

In Chicago, church-affiliated protesters marched through the city, carrying signs and chanting, “I can’t breathe” and “Hands up, don’t shoot,” television news footage showed.

Protesters in Miami blocked a portion of Interstate 195 on Sunday afternoon, clogging traffic to the Art Basel show in Miami Beach, CBS-TV Miami reported.

The outcry over the recent killings surfaced in NFL stadiums as well.

Detroit Lions running back Reggie Bush was among several players donning pre-game practice jerseys reading “I can’t breathe,” Garner’s dying words.

Reuters



A protester flees as police officers try to disperse a crowd comprised largely of student demonstrators during a protest against police violence in the US, in Berkeley, California early on 7 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS



## WORLD

## US does not hide that sanctions aim at regime change in Russia — diplomat

Moscow, 8 Dec — The goal of Washington's sanctions is to create conditions for changing the regime in Russia, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told Russia's lower house of parliament on Monday.

"The fact is not concealed that the sanctions' aim is to create social and economic conditions to carry out the regime change in Russia," Ryabkov said, speaking on Russia-US relations.

The way out of the current US sanctions situation will take many years, Ryabkov said. "I am unprepared to say if we are witnesses to a rerun of the Cold War or for how long the current state of affairs will persist. One thing I know for certain: getting out of the current situation the US sanctions have produced will take many years."

The "reset" of relations with Moscow has limited the possibilities of the United States to interfere into Russia's internal affairs, Ryabkov noted.



Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov.

"The 'reset' was officially announced to have ended in 2008, and it allowed to 'scale a boiler' of the year in the relations in the 1990s," the diplomat said. "One of the results of this period was narrowing US possibilities of meddling into our internal affairs," he stressed.

Moscow is calm on tensions in the relations with the United States and is taking adjusted retaliation measures, the deputy foreign minister noted.

"We do not feel nervous about this, and our actions are adjusted," he said.

Retaliatory measures against the United States are thought-out and well-balanced, and Russia will not announce its sanction counter-lists, Ryabkov said.

The United States is trying to force Russia into reconsidering its foreign

policy concept for the stance taken over Ukraine, Ryabkov told the State Duma during hearings on Russian-US relations on Monday.

"The wish to tear the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries away from Russia has always been on the list of US foreign policy interests and early this year it manifested itself with particular aggressiveness," he said. "The advocates of anti-Russian policies were given a go-ahead to stage a government coup. In line with the slogan 'The end justifies the means' they made radical nationalists their main attack force."

"Then a decision was made to 'punish' us — first for the peaceful and free expression of will by the people of Crimea and Sevastopol, and then for the stance over the events in the south-east of Ukraine." Ryabkov added that in fact attempts were underway "to force Russia to reconsider its foreign policy concept."

Itar-Tass

## UNSG's Message on International Anti-Corruption Day

9 December 2014

Corruption is a global phenomenon that strikes hardest at the poor, hinders inclusive economic growth and robs essential services of badly needed funds. From cradle to grave, millions are touched by corruption's shadow.

On this year's observance of the International Anti-Corruption Day, we call again on people everywhere to get involved in "Breaking the Corruption Chain".

Next year the world will agree a new post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Our aim is to empower individuals and catalyse governments, the private sector and civil society to help lift millions out of poverty, protect the planet and achieve shared prosperity and dignity for all. Eliminating corruption and its harmful impacts will be crucial to our future well-being.

To dismantle corruption's high walls, I urge every nation to ratify and implement the UN Convention against Corruption. Its ground breaking measures in the areas of prevention, criminalization, international cooperation and asset recovery have made important inroads, but there is much more to do. Public services must uphold the highest standards of integrity and ensure that appointments are driven by merit. Public servants, as well as elected officials, must be guided by ethics, transparency and accountability.

The private sector also has a crucial role. Good behaviour is good business. Business groups can convert anti-corruption action into firm support for sustainable development.

I call on everyone to help end corruption, and come together for global fairness and equity. The world and its people can no longer afford, nor tolerate, corruption.

UNIC/Yangon

## Canadian Embassy in Cairo closed due to security concerns

CAIRO, 8 Dec — Canada's Embassy in Cairo was closed on Monday until further notice because of security concerns, an official answering its emergency telephone line said, the second diplomatic mission to shut its doors this week.

A message on the embassy's website read: "The ability to provide consular services may occasionally be limited for short periods due to unsettled security conditions." It gave no more details.

The British Embassy in Cairo closed to the public on Sunday, also citing security concerns. A notice on its website on Monday said its services remained suspended.

Egypt is battling an Islamist insurgency largely centred around Sinai, a strategic area near the border with Israel, Gaza and the Suez Canal.

Insurgent attacks have mostly targeted Egyptian police and soldiers, killing hundreds in the past year, but Egypt's most dangerous militant group, Sinai Province, said on Monday it was behind the killing of an American oil engineer in the western desert in August.

Smaller bombs also regularly explode in Cairo and the Nile Delta, usually causing limited injuries.

One security source told *Reuters* on Sunday it was not yet clear what threats had prompted the British embassy to close its doors.

But another source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a suspected militant who was recently detained by Egyptian authorities had confessed to plans to target foreign embassies.

Reuters

## Turkey warns three banks to cooperate in fighting terrorism — media

ANKARA, 8 Dec — Turkey has told three unnamed banks to "cooperate" in its fight against financing terrorism and in identifying dirty money, Turkey's state news agency said on Sunday.

"There are three banks that do not cooperate with the Financial Crime Investigation Board (MASAK) efficiently in the detection of dirty money and in the fight against terrorism. We have warned them," Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek was quoted as telling the Anadolu news agency, adding that he was unable to name the banks because of privacy concerns.

"We have warned them and now we expect them to build much more effective cooperation with us."

They considered our earlier warnings, and I am sure they will cooperate more now," he added.

Last year Turkey's parliament approved a long-awaited anti-terrorism financing law, which allows alleged "terrorist" accounts to be frozen without a court order and provides for a variety of penalties including imprisonment for those found to be abetting terrorism.

Before 15 October Turkey was on a "grey list" of countries drawn up by the 36-member Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a money-laundering watchdog, for failing to implement the legislation required by its members, despite being pressed to do so for years.

Reuters

## China sentences eight to death for deadly Xinjiang attacks

BEIJING, 8 Dec — China on Monday sentenced eight people to death for their role in two attacks earlier this year that killed dozens in China's far-western Xinjiang region, state media reported.

Five others received suspended death sentences from the Urumqi Intermediate People's Court for serving as co-conspirators in the attacks, according to

the *People's Daily*.

In the first incident on 30 April, attackers bombed a train station in Xinjiang's capital city Urumqi.

On 22 May, four men drove a sport utility vehicle into an open-air market in the city, tossing explosives from the vehicle's window. The attack left over 30 dead and more than 100 injured.

China claims Muslim separatists from the

country's Uyghur minority group perpetrated the attacks as part of a campaign of violence aimed at breaking Xinjiang off from China and forming an independent country called East Turkestan.

Human rights groups deny the charges, arguing that the violence is a reaction to China's ethnic policies.

Beijing has responded

to the attacks by tightening security in the region and placing restrictions on certain Islamic practices and symbols, including the wearing of beards and veils.

It has also sought to increase economic investment in the region, hoping that rising living standards will help quell dissatisfaction with the status quo.

Kyodo News

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 9 December, 2014

## Don't lose sight of public interest

By Myint Win Thein

**A**uthorities in Yangon are trying to solve the problem of traffic congestion as it has become a major difficulty for the public. As public buses are the only transportation mode that covers the whole city, traffic congestion has an enormous effect on the daily lives of Yangon residents by delaying them from going to and from work.

A number of overpasses have been built in major junctions while many main roads were

widened. Vehicles parked on roads are fined. People are encouraged to use other modes of transportation including circle line trains. Although the authorities are grappling with the problem of traffic congestion, the public has already recognized these efforts.

However, restricting public buses in downtown areas does not lead to the intended result. Public buses are allowed to use only one lane on major roads in downtown areas. As a result, all public buses have to queue in the only available lane and hardly move forward at rush hour. It takes about an hour for the buses to drive through the downtown area, which took about a half hour previously. Some impatient passengers choose to walk instead of wasting time on crowded buses.

In Singapore, private cars are restricted or banned in central business districts and the public transportation system is improved. Priority is given to the mode of transportation used by the majority of its population.

To the contrary, public buses used by majority of Yangon residents are restricted downtown and people are beginning to feel the bite of this. Now, only some impatient passengers choose to walk downtown but it is likely that all passengers will take to street if the problem persists. Authorities should not lose sight of serving the interests of the general public in whatever they do.

## Write for us

*We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.*

*Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.*

## Letter to the Editor

*(The following letter was sent to NLM on 4 May 2014. Ed)*

Dear Sir,

I laid my hands on your newspaper New Light of Myanmar just by an accident.

And now that I think about it, it was more than a chance. I think I was meant to read your paper on this Air Mandalay flight in late April this year. I always wanted to write about the following with hope that maybe there will be somebody who will read this and will have enough love for his CITY and country and will have enough influence to take action and who will be well known so people will listen. At end of the day I am just an outsider - onlooker who has no way of changing things.

There was and is an issue that troubles me a lot and I will explain why.

Six years ago, when all the West made everything that was possible to give Myanmar a negative image, I convinced my wife to travel to Myanmar. She was not convinced as western media did a great job marginalizing your People and your Country. After many months she gave in.

I am writing this because we not only fell in love with the beauty of Your Country but also fill great admiration for your People who in most cases are the most kind and sweet People we ever met and believe me we have travelled all over the world. Since the first trip we have returned 6 times more and have great plans for the future. How cruel and unjust media was-doing so much unnecessary suffering.

In those six visits there was always an issue that troubled me greatly.

I am saddened by one aspect that really upsets me and breaks my heart.

Yangon is an incredible city. Full of history some good memories and some really sad.

Each nation has its good and its bad times.

But every time I arrive in Yangon it breaks my heart

the senseless distraction of your old and unique buildings. Within months another old building is gone!

History cannot be undone and yes many think that changing the look of the city can make people forget the past.

BUT as history cannot be changed the same will apply to Myanmar People who sometime in the future when they wake up and look back and say "what have we done" destroying our unique architecture!

Please consider this: Yes new buildings are clean, nice, tidy and functional but do not forget something very important. People travel from all over the world today to see Yangon as it is unique city. Has incredible buildings AND Y E S I agree many of them are beyond repair.

But there is a simple solution to save those precious buildings.

Life took me to live in Australia Country with little history but look at Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide or Perth Centres.

If there is an interesting building with style from the past the developer can knock it down BUT with one condition: he has to save the front and/or the sides, saving their architecture value for the future.

How is this done - simple?

If you want the land but building is old full of vermin, rusted pipes and worn out electrical installation, crumbling down and unsafe -yes you can have it with one condition. You will have to support the parts of the building [using steel beams and supports], the City Shire wants to preserve for future and then you knock down the rest. Then you build a new skyscraper and incorporate the "old" into the "new".

Guess what- it looks I M P R E S I V E.

If Myanmar could and had the know how to build a New Capital then trying to save the beautiful buildings is not impossible. Yes it needs a strong authority to face the rich companies but it is not that it cannot be done. Just strong will and LOVE for the beauty of Yangon is needed.

And let's be honest - the one who has the money [now days] to buy a plot of land in Yangon and redevelop it, has enough money- just a little bit more -to save the history for

your children and your grand children.

Yes short term benefits are there for the developers but stop and think; long term benefits are much greater for your City and Country. Tourism is the industry that people do not see because it doesn't pollute or make noise but it is an industry that can make and can break a country.

Most of people with whom I have spoken come from places far but far away but they all said to me:

WHY the local authorities are so short sighted - even blind. This is Myanmar's Heritage.

We have specially travelled to see famous Yangon.

People do not travel to see concrete and new buildings. They come to see this famous city called Yangon.

I am also well aware that some action is taken in this direction but the way I see it is that the buildings that are being saved are the ones that cannot be disappeared over night without people noticing it and asking uncomfortable questions. I refer to buildings that are hidden and easy target.

The City Planners should introduce a simple and very clear policy to all developers no matter how powerful they are. You are more than welcome to improve our city with 2 conditions-

1-you incorporate "old" into new -you cannot redevelop if you are not willing to preserve beauty

2-you preserve all the trees, protect them during construction process and incorporate them as part of the finish structure.

To end just one more thing that is as important as the one I just wrote about.

Do not make the mistake to cut down the trees in name of progress. This is not progress but a crime. Yangon has 3 beauties; one is its buildings, two its kind citizens and three are the trees that make this city so but so special.

Not that anybody will listen to me but like they say in my native country:-hope is the last thing we lose.

With my best respects and regards hoping for a miracle.

**Robert Tomaszewski**

## FMI sees record profits with total revenue of K 3648 million

## Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 8 Dec — the previous year. First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd. (FMI) reported to shareholders that it recorded K 3,648 million in total revenues for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, up 78% from

Net income increased 107% to K 3,016 million, marking the highest figure ever recorded by the company. Continuing its unbroken record of paying divi-

dends for over two decades, FMI has declared a cash dividend of K 200 per share along with a 10-for-1 bonus share issue, effectively representing a total dividend of K 1,300 per share for the year.

In order to provide increasing value to share-

holders, FMI also announced its intention to list on the Yangon Stock Exchange, with the assistance of the Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre and Japan's Daiwa Securities Group. The three companies have signed an Engagement Letter for the

provision of IPO advisory services, which will help to prepare FMI for the listing.

As part of its preparations for the Yangon Stock Exchange, FMI will embark on an ambitious restructuring program that will see it focus on 'four

pillars': financial services, real estate, healthcare and aviation. The company feels these sectors have tremendous potential, and with FMI's strong experience and professional management team, it aims to become a market leader in each of them.



## LOCAL NEWS



## Ancient Buddha images emerge from pagoda construction site

TANINTHAYI, 8 Dec— Under the supervision of the pagoda board of trustees, workers dug the ground for construction of Shwephonepint Pagoda in the precinct of Laythataung Pagoda in Taninthayi, Taninthayi Region, on 5 December.

They found three five-

inch gold Buddha images and 15 silver Buddha images, one six-inch silver Buddha image and one damaged silver Buddha image, totalling 20.

The Buddha images are being kept at the Dhammayon of the pagoda for public obeisance.—*Nan-thayi-Htein Win (IPRD)*

## Urbanites of Nyaunglebin donate provisions to Buddhist monks

NYAUNGLEBIN, 8 Dec—The fourth rice offering ceremony took place in Myoma Ward 5 in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, on 6 December.

Local people offered rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and alms to 510 members of the Sangha from 39 monasteries.

At the donation ceremony, they presented offerings worth about K15 million to the monks.

*Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)*

## Students join inter-private school concert in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 9 Dec—The first Inter-Private School Concert of Mandalay Region took place at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 7 December.

Students from 38 private schools presented music, songs and dances to the audiences. KMC private school founder U Khin Maung Cho, who is also secretary of the local association of private schools, explained the purpose of holding the concert for promoting relations among the schools. The concert is to broaden the horizon of the students not only in the education field but in general knowledge. The private

schools widen their scope to be able to enjoy fine arts activities, he said.

One such student said, "I participate in the troupe-wise dancing event representing Myitta private school. While taking dance lessons, I'm freed from the tension of learning and I'm always fresh. So I'd like to join the concert next year."

Altogether, students from 19 schools took part in the concert in the morning and afternoon.

Mandalay Region government has allowed establishment of 69 private schools in the region.

*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



## Solo art show attracts Mandalarians, tourists

MANDALAY, 8 Dec — Artist KT Zin opened her Beyond Golden Anniversary Years solo art show at Thiri Arts Gallery in Mandalay on 7 December.

All her paintings were created with acrylic media type, depicting the emotions of women. The art show marks her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"This is my first solo show in commemoration of my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Moreover, I would like to honour my benefactor and trainer, veteran artist U Myo Khin," she said in explaining the purpose of the show.

A total of 52 paintings are on display at the gallery for public observation from 7 to 9 December.

*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

## Agriculturists explain export and packaging system for Seintalon mango



MANDALAY, 8 Dec — A ceremony to introduce trademark of export Seintalon mango, jointly organized by Myanmar Vegetables, Flower and Fruits Producers Association and Korea Invention Promotion Association of the Republic of Korea, was held at Smart Hotel on 28<sup>th</sup> street between 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> streets in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 5

December.

Seintalon mango plants are grown in Kyaukse, Myiththa, Amarapura, Patheingyi and TadaU townships of Mandalay Region.

Dr Than Than Swe of Technological University (Mandalay/Kyaukse) explained technical assistance for mango export to the market, while an agriculturist from the Republic of Korea lectured on modern

cultivation technology for mango plants, packaging system for export product and storage.

Horticulturists participated in the discussions and the Korean agriculturist replied to queries. At the ceremony, officials showed cultivation, production and export of Seintalon mango to the market.

*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

## Rural area to get access to Natogyi through earthen road

NATOGYI, 8 Dec — The Rural Development Department is supervising construction of an earthen road linking Natogyi and Kadaung villages in Mandalay Region, Township Administrator U Kyaw Nang said recently.

A construction company is responsible for building the five-mile road in parallel with the Nato-

gyi-Wetlu railroad section. The road will not damage farmlands of local residents, he added.

With the assistance of Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, the earthen road under construction will link multiple villages in the township at an estimated cost of about K8 million.—*Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)*





# Afghan students find inspiration in Islamic State's success

KABUL, 8 Dec — A quiet student at Kabul University, 25-year-old Abdul Rahim has a dream: to join Islamic State in Syria and fight for the establishment of a global caliphate — a new, alarming form of radicalism in war-weary Afghanistan.

“When hundreds of foreigners, both men and women, leave their comfortable lives and embrace Daish, then why not us?” he asked, using a word for Islamic State common in the region.

Although IS is not believed to have operations in Afghanistan, its influence is growing in a country already

mired in daily bombings and attacks by Taleban insurgents.

With most foreign combat troops leaving the country by the end of the year, there is growing uncertainty over what direction Afghanistan will take, with the emergence of IS ideology adding a new risk.

A few dozen students have set up an underground group a few months after IS started making inroads into Central and South Asia this year.

Several hardline insurgent groups in tribal areas between Afghanistan and

Pakistan have pledged allegiance to IS, propaganda leaflets have been distributed and some local commanders are said to have met IS members.

But the formation of the clandestine student group is the clearest indication yet that IS ideas are taking hold more broadly.

“Several students who are close to us went to Syria to join our brothers for a holy cause,” said student Gul Rahman, holding a mobile phone with IS's black flag logo on the screen.

Islamic State is a violent Sunni group which

controls large areas of Iraq and Syria. It announced the establishment of a caliphate in June.

IS also announced intentions to bring Afghanistan, Pakistan and India under its control, although so far only eight Afghan citizens have traveled from Afghanistan to fight in Syria, security sources told *Reuters*.

The number is tiny compared with the thousands of recruits who have left European countries to join IS, with IS's influence in South Asia still embryonic.—*Reuters*



*Smoke raises behind an Islamic State flag after Iraqi security forces and Shiite fighters took control of Saadiya in Diyala province from Islamist State militants, on 24 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS*

## Roadside bombs targeting Houthis explode in Yemen's capital, several wounded

SANAA, 8 Dec — Five roadside bombs targeting Shi'ite Muslim Houthi fighters exploded in the Yemeni capital Sanaa early on Monday, wounding several people, the ministry of defence website said.

The Houthis' Ansarullah movement, which has links to Shi'ite Iran, has become the main political force in Yemen since it captured Sanaa in September and then pushed into the country's Sunni Muslim heartland south and west of the capital.

The bombs targeted Houthi checkpoints and some houses, the ministry website quoted Sanaa's director of security as saying. Two other devices were dismantled, the ministry added.

A medical source said eight people had been wounded and three of them were in a critical condition.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombs.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a Sunni Islamist militant group which regards Shi'ites as heretics, has claimed two previous attacks in Sanaa in the past two months, including a car bomb last week that killed three people at the Iranian ambassador's residence.

Yemen has been in political turmoil since 2011. Neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Western powers fear the instability could pose a threat to oil supplies and facilitate al-Qaeda's



*People inspect damage caused by the explosion of a bomb planted at the gate of a house belonging to a Shi'ite Houthi man in Sanaa on 8 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

ability to attack Western interests.

AQAP, formed in 2006 by the merger of the Yemeni and Saudi branches of the network, has for years been seen by Washington as one of the movement's most dangerous branches. Washington has used drones in Yemen to target the militants.

Two Western hostages were among at least

11 people killed during a failed mission by US-led forces to rescue them at the weekend in Shabwa province, a militant stronghold in southern Yemen. Several members of AQAP were also killed.

Western governments fear the advances made by Shi'ite Houthi fighters have bolstered support among Yemeni Sunnis for AQAP.—*Reuters*

## 5 killed as Taleban gunmen storm gov't offices in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, 8 Dec — At least five people were killed on Monday after Taleban gunmen and suicide bombers attacked government buildings in southern Afghanistan's province of Kandahar, sources said.

“One militant detonated a car bomb near the Maywand District police station at midday. Several other gunmen tried to enter the station. The blast and gunfight claimed the lives of five people, including a senior police official as we know so far,” police chief of Maywand district Jan Aqa Khan told *Xinhua*.

Security forces have cordoned off the area for precautionary measures.

“The number of victims is still being counted,”

Khan said, noting that the casualties' details will be revealed to the media later in the day.

“The gunmen also fired on nearby government office buildings. Sporadic gunfight is still going on there and at least seven people were wounded in the clashes and blasts,” a witness told *Xinhua*.

Shortly after the attack, the Taleban insurgent group claimed the responsibility for the incident.

The Taleban has intensified attacks over the past couple of months as the NATO-led forces are withdrawing from the country. The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from the NATO troops by the end of this month.—*Xinhua*



*Photo taken on 7 Dec, 2014 shows rubble of a damaged mosque after Iraqi Air Force's bombing in Islamic State militant seized city of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, Iraq. At least three civilians were injured during the bombing.*

XINHUA

## Woman who stabbed US teacher in UAE was 'lone terrorist'

DUBAI, 8 Dec — A United Arab Emirates woman who killed an American teacher last week has been inspired by “terrorist ideology” acquired through the Internet but investigators have found no links to militant groups, the state news agency WAM reported on Sunday.

Attacks on Westerners are rare in the UAE, a wealthy western allied oil exporter and tourism hub, but concern has been rising following a spate of attacks in neighbouring Saudi Arabia and after a warning in October about a jihadist web forum calling for attacks on American teachers in the region.

Police on Thursday said they had arrested the

UAE national last week after the kindergarten teacher, identified as Romanian-born Ibolya Ryan, a mother of 11-year-old twins, was stabbed and killed in a toilet at an Abu Dhabi shopping mall.

The unidentified woman also placed a makeshift bomb outside the front door of an apartment of an Egyptian-American doctor living in the UAE less than two hours after Monday's killing, police said adding that the bomb was safely dismantled.

WAM, quoting a security source, said that investigation of the woman showed that the “crimes she had committed are the result of a personal instigation and a lone terrorist act.”

“The suspect had been visiting some terrorist electronic websites, which are widespread on the Internet and which had enabled the detainee to acquire the terrorist ideology and to study bomb-making,” the security source said, according to WAM.

It said explosives seized by police showed they are of the primitive kind.

WAM said the investigation also showed that the woman had not planned to kill an American but was looking for a foreigner to attack at random.

“As such, these crimes are considered to be of one's personal instigation and a lone terrorist act that is so far not linked to any

terrorist organization,” the agency said.

The suspect had been filmed on security cameras at the mall wearing a traditional black Arab robe and gloves.

A spate of attacks on Westerners in neighbouring Saudi Arabia has raised concern there that the assaults may represent the start of a “lone wolf” campaign by jihadi militants.

Supporters of the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria have urged Muslims to attack Western expatriates in retaliation for US-led air strikes on its fighters. The UAE has participated in the air campaign and is a strong opponent of a variety of Islamist groups.

*Reuters*



## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Songbird Estates shareholder Madison backs Qatari bid

LONDON, 8 Dec — The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) said on Monday that Songbird Estates (SB-DE.L) shareholder Madison International Realty said it plans to accept the sovereign wealth fund's hostile offer for the UK property firm.

The 350-pence-a-share offer for the owner of London's Canary Wharf financial district was launched to Songbird shareholders by the QIA and US investor Brookfield Property Partners (BPY.N) on Thursday.

Madison holds a total of 18,627,054 Songbird shares, representing approximately 12 percent of Songbird's shares in free float and 2.5 of Songbird's issued ordinary share capital. Taken together with backing from fellow shareholder Third Avenue Management, the 2.6 billion pounds QIA/Brookfield bid has so far received public support from holders of about 28 percent of Songbird's free float, a statement by QIA said on Monday.

Reuters



The Canary Wharf financial district is seen at dusk in east London on 7 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

## Nikkei tops 18,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> time since July 2007 on Wall St gains

TOKYO, 8 Dec — Tokyo stocks opened higher on Monday, with the Nikkei index topping the 18,000 threshold for the first time since July 2007, following gains on Wall Street on the back of upbeat US jobs report for November.

In the first 15 minutes of trading, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 85.02 points, or 0.47 percent, from Friday to 18,005.47. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was up 6.74 points, or 0.47 percent, to 1,452.41.

Major gainers included rubber products, brokerage and automakers issues.

Kyodo News

## Methamphetamine use soars in Iran as lifestyles speed up

BEIRUT, 8 Dec — Women in headscarves and men in tatty clothes puff on a glass pipe as smoke swirls around their faces. The pictures published by Iranian media and blogs in recent months are a sign of a new drug epidemic: shishe, or methamphetamine.

Shishe means "glass" in Farsi, a reference to the appearance of the drug in some of its purest forms.

In less than a decade, methamphetamine use has skyrocketed in Iran to the point where now about 345,000 Iranians are considered addicts, according to official statistics. Seizures of methamphetamine soared 128 percent between 2008 and 2012, topping all other countries in the region, according to figures compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Last year alone, the government of Iran confiscated 3.6 tonnes of shishe.

A top official from the Iran Drug Control Headquarters said last year that shishe could be found in Teheran in "less than five minutes," according to the *Iranian Students' News Agency*. Shishe addicts in Iran are mostly urban, middle class and young, experts say. Notably, there are a large number of women who abuse shishe, too.

One of the main reasons why shishe use has spread quickly in Iran is a lack of information about the drug, which has led casual users to believe, erroneously, that it is not addictive, experts say.

Struggling university students have begun abusing it to stay up longer and try to boost their performance in school. Women have been sold the drug in beauty salons with the promise that it will help them lose weight, according to local media reports.

Reuters

## China faces more pressure as November imports shrink unexpectedly, exports slow

BEIJING, 8 Dec — China's imports shrank unexpectedly in November while export growth slowed, fueling concerns the world's second-largest economy could be facing a sharper slowdown and adding pressure on policymakers to ramp up stimulus measures.

Exports rose 4.7 percent from a year earlier, while imports dropped 6.7 percent, the biggest drop since March, data released by the General Administration of Customs showed on Monday. That left the country with a record trade surplus of \$54.5 billion, which analysts say could increase upward pressure on the yuan CNY=CFXS even as exporters are struggling.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected exports to grow 8.2 percent, a 3.9 percent rise in imports and a trade surplus of \$43.5 billion, all slowing from October. "Despite another record surplus, the details paint a grim picture with slower export growth and a contraction in commodity

imports in volume terms," said Andy Ji, senior currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Singapore.

Exports have been the lone bright spot for China's economy in the last few months, perhaps helping to offset soft domestic demand, but there have been doubts about the accuracy of the official numbers amid signs of a resurgence of speculative currency flows through inflated trade receipts.

Dariusz Kowalczyk at Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong said over-reporting in exports may have been curbed in November, which contributed to a weaker reading. But he added that the import contraction was "shocking", reflecting not only lower commodity prices but poor domestic demand.

"This means that pressure will rise on the government to do more to stimulate growth," he said.

"We expect a reserve requirement ratio cut in

December, introduction of reverse repos this week, and another rate cut in the first quarter. The yuan should rise further on the data."

After saying for months that China does not need any big economic stimulus, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) surprised financial markets by lowering rates on 21 November to shore up growth and help firms pay off mountains of debt.

The government is due to release data on factory

output, fixed-asset investment and retail sales later this week.

Analysts see more policy support in coming months if the economy continues to stumble, with many expecting both more rate cuts and reductions in banks' reserve requirement ratios (RRR). Hopes of more stimulus have pushed China's benchmark stock indexes CSI300 to their highest in more than three years.—Reuters



A worker stands on buckets of steel pipes which are waiting to be loaded onto a cargo ship, at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province on 1 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

## Japan economy shrinks more than expected, backs Abe's tax decision



A man takes a nap along a street next to his belongings as pedestrians walk past at Tokyo's Ginza shopping district on 16 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

TOKYO, 8 Dec — Japan's economy shrank more than initially reported in the third quarter on declines in business investment, data showed on Monday, surprising markets and backing premier Shinzo Abe's recent decision to delay a second sales tax hike.

The hit from an April sales tax hike turned out to be bigger than expected, the revised gross domestic product data indicated, underscoring the challenges

Abe and the Bank of Japan face in pulling the world's third-largest economy sustainably out of deflation.

The revision to an annualized 1.9 percent contraction from a preliminary 1.6 percent fall confirmed Japan slipped into recession and confounded a Reuters poll projecting a 0.5 percent contraction.

Abe, who has called a snap election for Sunday, hopes voters will agree that his stimulus policies and

delay in the planned second tax hike next year will revive a sputtering economy. Media polls predict a landslide victory for his coalition.

The "harsh evidence for Abenomics," shows that "tame growth in wages in particular is likely to drag on private consumption and broader economic activity," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute. Adding to the gloom, manufactur-

ers' confidence slid in December and is expected to deteriorate further, the Reuters Tankan showed, highlighting the patchy nature of the recovery.

The key factor behind the GDP downgrade was a 0.4 percent decline in business investment, revised from a preliminary 0.2 percent fall. Analysts had expected capital spending to be revised up after an upbeat survey last week.

Reuters



# Test runs start on new Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train line



A shinkansen bullet train leaves JR Kanazawa station in Kanazawa on the Sea of Japan coast on 8 Dec, 2014, as test runs started for train cars to be used from next March for the Hokuriku Shinkansen Line service linking Tokyo with Kanazawa.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 8 Dec — Test runs started on Monday for train cars to be used from next March for bullet train service on the Hokuriku Shinkansen Line linking Tokyo with Kanazawa on the Sea of Japan coast, operators East Japan Railway Co and West Japan Railway Co said. The operators, better known as JR East and JR West, will continue testing the new “E7 series” and “W7 series” cars as well as checking track and station facilities on the line’s extended section — between Nagano, Nagano Prefecture, and Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture — until just before services on the section open to the public on 14 March. The test runs will also include the training of about 220 drivers and con-

ductors, the operators said.

The trains will make as many as 25 daily roundtrips between Nagano and mid-point Joetsu-Myoko in Niigata Prefecture, and as many as 14 daily roundtrips between Joetsu-Myoko and a rail depot in Hakusan, near Kanazawa station.

The fastest express train on the line, the “Kagayaki,” will connect Tokyo and Kanazawa in two hours and 28 minutes, with other trains on the line including the “Hakutaka,” “Tsurugi” and “Asama.” No problems were found during earlier tests carried out by the Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency, which built the tracks and related facilities.

Kyodo News

## World’s largest container vessel launches maiden voyage

SHANGHAI, 8 Dec — CSCL (China Shipping Container Lines CoLtd) Globe, the world’s largest container vessel, started its maiden voyage to Europe on Monday in Shanghai. The CSCL Globe is the first of a series of five 19,100-TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) container ships ordered by CSCL in 2013. It was built by Hyundai Heavy Industries in the Republic of Korea.

The vessel is 400 metres long and 60 metres wide and travels at a speed of 43 km per hour. Its loading capacity exceeds Maersk Line’s 18,000-TEU as the world’s largest container vessel.

The vessel, which can carry about 200 million tablet computers at a time, has been dubbed the “A380 of the shipping industry.” Compared with ordinary 10,000-TEU container ships, it can save about 20 percent in energy consumption and reduce 30,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

CSCL, affiliated with the China Shipping Group, is a global container liner service provider. Founded in 1997, the Shanghai-based company is listed both in Hong Kong and Shanghai.—Xinhua

## South Korea probes reports airline boss’ daughter ordered attendant off plane

SEOUL, 8 Dec — South Korea’s transport ministry is investigating reports that the daughter of the chairman of Korean Air Lines Co, who oversees in-flight service, caused a plane being pushed back from a gate to return in order to expel a flight attendant.

Heather Cho, 40, was in a first class seat on a flight bound from New York’s John F. Kennedy

International Airport for Incheon, near Seoul, on Friday when she took issue with a flight attendant who handed her macadamia nuts in a bag and not on a dish, according to local media reports and an industry source.

Cho, a vice president at the airline, summoned the cabin crew chief to ask whether the flight attendant was following the in-flight

service manual, said the industry official, who was briefed on the matter but declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

When the crew chief could not answer the question promptly, Cho ordered the crew chief to disembark, prompting the pilot to return the plane to the gate, the industry official said, confirming media reports.

Korean Air confirmed on Monday that the executive involved in the matter was Cho, and said she would not be available for media comment.

It said the flight arrived at Incheon 11 minutes behind schedule and the decision to expel the crew chief had been made in consultation with the pilot.

It did not say why the crew chief was ordered off

the plane. South Korea’s transport ministry said on Monday that it was investigating the case involving a vice president of the airline and would take appropriate measures if any laws or industry regulations had been broken. Heather Cho is the oldest of Korean Air Chairman and CEO Cho Yang-ho’s three children, all of whom are executives at the airline.—Reuters

## Survivors commemorate 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbour attack

HONOLULU, 8 Dec — For the fifth year in a row, Lou Conter made the trip to Honolulu from his Alta Sierra, California, home to remember his USS Arizona shipmates who died in the surprise air attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December, 1941.

Before the 73<sup>rd</sup> commemoration ceremony started on the Pearl Harbour Visitor Center’s main lawn on Sunday morning, Conter said that he and other survivors started gathering in Honolulu in 1991, and he now plans to come every year that he’s able.

It’s not about him, he noted. “It’s to pay respects to the 2,400 who died that day, 1,177 on the Arizona,” the 93-year-old Conter said.

Seated next to him in the front row, fellow Pearl Harbour survivor John

Mathrusse agreed. The 91-year-old had been near the Pacific Fleet on Ford Island when Japanese planes flew overhead and started dropping bombs that would claim 2,403 lives and mark the United States’ first battle of World War Two.

As bombs rained down, Mathrusse said he was in survival mode. “I had a rifle, which I used,” he said, describing how he fired away at the planes. “It didn’t do any good but it sure made me feel better,” he added.

Conter and Mathrusse were among more than 50 World War Two veterans who attended the ceremony, which drew about 2,500 guests — among them four of the nine remaining USS Arizona survivors who also attended the official gathering of the USS Arizona Reunion Association.



This captured Japanese photograph shows the attack on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii on 7 Dec, 1941. In the distance, the smoke rises from Hickam Field.

REUTERS

The ceremony was part of a nationwide re-

membrance day, commemorated at different US sites.

On Oahu, guests sat facing Pearl Harbor, where

21 vessels were sunk or damaged, along with 323 military planes. As the audience looked on, the USS Chung-Hoon sailed into the harbour and whistled at 7:55 am to signal for a moment of silence at the exact time the attacks began.

“By honouring our past, we inspire our future and assure the events of this day 73 years ago are not forgotten,” General Lori Robinson, commander of the Pacific Air Forces, said in a keynote address.

The ceremony also included music by the Navy’s US Pacific Fleet Band, a Hawaiian blessing, a cannon salute by the US Army, echo taps and wreath presentations.

As in years past, the Japanese Religious Committee for World Federation offered a prayer for peace.—Reuters



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
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**( 378N )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO ( 378N ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

## Helicopter with five injured in Mi-8 crash in Nenets Area on its way to Naryan-Mar

ARKHANGELSK, 8 Dec — Five persons who were injured in the crash of the Mi-8 helicopter in Russia's Nenets Autonomous Area has been evacuated from the crash site to the administrative centre of the Nenets Area, Naryan-Mar, the regional department of the Russian Emergencies Ministry told TASS on Sunday.

Sergei Gmyzin, the chief physician of the Naryan-Mar hospital, where these men will be taken to, said the men are in a serious condition with craniocerebral traumas, sterna and limb fractures. "The hospital has everything needed to offer them emergency medical aid," he said. "Local surgeons will be able to operate all the five of them, if need be." "The helicopter with the patients took off at 19:08 Moscow Time. It will take it about 70 minutes to reach Naryan-Mar," the press ser-



vice said. Three ambulance cars are awaiting for the patients at the Naryan-Mar airport.

A Mi-8 helicopter with four passengers and three crew members fell down at about 13:20 Moscow Time on Sunday two kilometres away from the takeoff site at the Trebs and Titov field

developed by the Bashneft Polyus oil company in the Nenets Autonomous Area. The helicopter was chartered to transport rotation workers of the Belomortrans company from Varandey to Naryan-Mar. Two of those onboard — the flight engineer and one passenger — died instantly, and five

were injured in the crash. The injured were taken to a medical unit at the Trebs and Titov field. The Northwestern transport prosecutor's office has launched a check into the accident. It said the crash might have been caused by either an engine malfunction or bad weather conditions.—Iar-Tass

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## WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:** Isolated light rain are likely in Yangon, Tanintharyi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperature in the Upper Myanmar Areas.

## People in animal costumes forced to evacuate Chicago hotel

CHICAGO, 8 Dec — People dressed in assorted animal costumes were sent into the cold Chicago night early on Sunday when a chlorine leak forced them and others to evacuate a large hotel that was hosting an annual convention called Midwest FurFest.

Guests at the 1,100-room Hyatt Regency Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois, near O'Hare International Airport, were evacuated after someone intentionally released a chlorine substance, sending 19 people to the hospital with dizziness, nausea and other symptoms, the Rosemont

Public Safety Department said in a statement.

Television news video showed people dressed as bears, raccoons, tigers and other animals milling around outside the hotel after the evacuation. The Midwest FurFest honours and promotes animal characters seen in comics, television and films.

Firefighters responded to a report of noxious odors on the 9th floor of the 12-story Hyatt at 12:40 am, the public safety department statement said.

Technicians found the source of the odor to be chlorine in a 9th floor stair-

well that was released in what appeared to be an intentional manner, the statement said. The incident remains under investigation.

Guests were evacuated to the nearby convention center as technicians decontaminated and ventilated the area and conducted tests. The hotel was later determined safe and people were allowed back in at about 4:30 am local time.

The Midwest FurFest convention resumed as scheduled on Sunday, according to a Midwest FurFest social media posting.

Reuters



*Members of the Penitentiary Symphonic Orchestra take part in a Christmas concert for the Peace, in the Teresa Carreno Theater, in Caracas, Venezuela, on 7 Dec, 2014. — XINHUA*



## Musician Danny O'Donoghue wants One Direction to stay united



Irish pop rock band The Script frontman Danny O'Donoghue says he does not want the popular music group One Direction to split.—PTI

LONDON, 8 Dec — Irish pop rock band The Script frontman Danny O'Donoghue says he does not want the popular music group One Direction to split.

Danny's advice comes days after it was reported that one of the members of 'Steal My Girl' band, Zayn Malik, was considering to quit the group in pursuit of a relaxed and peaceful lifestyle, reported the *Daily Star*.

"If I was advising them I would tell them to stick together as long as possible. It should be the band against the world. You have to stick together, protect each other and look after each other.

Maybe they need an extended break but I wouldn't advise them to split," he said.

PTI

## Whitney Houston's movie trailer arrives



LOS ANGELES, 8 Dec — Lifetime debuts a trailer for the upcoming Whitney Houston movie.

The trailer gives a sneak peek at her journey to stardom, her life during the peak of her career, her tumultuous relationship with Bobby Brown, and her struggle with addiction, reported Ace Showbiz.

The late singer is portrayed by former "America's Next Top Model" contestant Yaya DaCosta, while her vocal performances are sung by Deborah Cox.

"Into the Storm" star Arlen Escarpeta plays Brown, and Oscar-nominated actress Angela Bassett serves behind the lens. The TV movie revolves around Houston's career and personal life including how she dealt with the overwhelming rewards and consequences of the fame and fortune. "I'm putting everything on the line, my career, everything!" she said in the trailer.

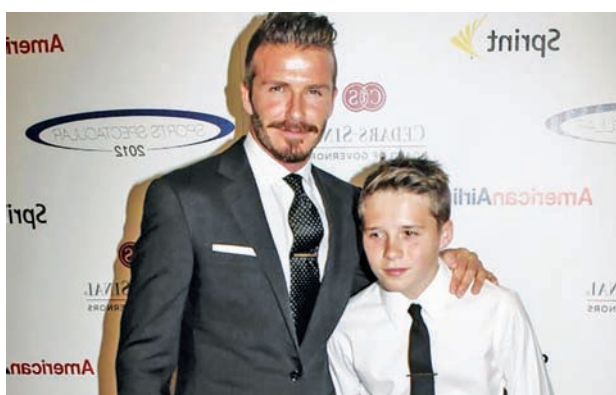
It is set to premiere on 17 January, 2015 on the third anniversary of her untimely death.—PTI

## David Beckham's son Brooklyn Beckham joins Twitter

LOS ANGELES, 8 Dec — Brooklyn, the eldest son of David and Victoria Beckham, has opened an account in micro-blogging site Twitter.

The 15-year-old is using the account under the username @brooklyn77B and following nine friends including rumoured girlfriend Chloe Moretz.

His profile picture showed him sporting a baseball cap bearing his name and a black-and-red



Brooklyn, the eldest son of David Beckham, has opened an account in micro-blogging site Twitter.

REUTERS

hockey mask.

His short bio reads, "Football is my life/also follow me on vine," along with a link to his vine account.

On the same day, Brooklyn also joined Instagram using the same username.

Brooklyn and Moretz sparked dating rumours in summer after being spotted having a skate date and attending Teen Choice Awards together.—PTI

## Arnold Schwarzenegger doesn't approve of Miley Cyrus?



Arnold Schwarzenegger

LONDON, 8 Dec — "Terminator" star Arnold Schwarzenegger is reportedly not happy with his son Patrick's relationship with Miley Cyrus.

The 67-year-old star doesn't approve of Miley's wild ways, reported Contactmusic.

"Miley is really smit-

ten with Patrick but his family are less impressed with the new romance. They don't approve of Miley's wild ways. Maria has warned Patrick that Miley might become a bad influence and she doesn't want her to lead her son astray," a source said.

However, Miley's

friends are said to be more concerned about the relationship. They feel Patrick is just using Miley to boost his fame. "Her inner circle know how hurt she was after her split from Liam Hemsworth and don't want her to go through heartache again," another source said.—PTI

## Tom Hanks, Sting and Lily Tomlin bask at Kennedy Center Honours



Actor Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson arrive for the Kennedy Center Honours in Washington, on 7 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec — Hollywood stars, ballet dancers, and soul singers on Sunday celebrated Kennedy Center Honours winners actor Tom Hanks, singer-song-

writer Sting and comedienne Lily Tomlin during Washington's high-profile tribute to excellence in the arts.

Ballerina Patricia McBride and singer Al Green completed the group of artists who sported the prestigious prize on a night of dance and song.

The evening began with a tribute to Green, whose hit tune "Let's Stay Together" drew political as well as artistic attention when President Barack Obama publicly crooned a few of its lines earlier in his presidency.

"I've been keeping his traditions alive," the president joked at a White House

ceremony. "He did a great job. He sounded better than me," Green told reporters ahead of the show, which featured spirited performances of his soulful music by singers Usher, Jennifer Hudson, and Earth Wind & Fire. McBride, who worked for 28 years as a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, watched as some of her protégées glided across the stage in her honour. "When I hung up the toe shoes I didn't look back, but I went forward. And I remember all my years with joy and wonder," she told reporters before the show.

Hanks represented the

top Hollywood draw of the night. The actor who won Oscars for his roles in the films "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump," joked that he didn't belong among the list of awardees.

"I couldn't believe it when I was notified that it was going to happen," he told *Reuters*. "I feel like, you know, there's an anomaly in the vote-taking process."

Film director Steven Spielberg and actor Martin Short paid tribute to Hanks after a montage of his top roles played on a large screen.

Actresses Jane Lynch and Jane Fonda feted Tom-

lin, renowned for her performances of telephone operator "Ernestine" on television show "Laugh-In" and roles in movies such as "Nashville" and "9 to 5."

Then came the musical surprises: Lady Gaga, Bruce Springsteen, and Bruno Mars rocked the stage with highlights from Sting's varied career.

"(To) have other people sing my songs and have to do virtually nothing but smile is quite something," Sting told *Reuters*.

Comedian Stephen Colbert hosted the show, which will be broadcast on CBS on 30 December.—Reuters



## GENERAL

## Condolences

It is with great sadness that we reach out to Mr. Jimmy Teo (Group Managing Director, Krislite Pte Ltd) and Mr. Sims Teo's (Director, Krislite Pte Ltd) today (5<sup>th</sup> December, 2014) in response to the death of your Mother and our deepest condolences on the loss of your mother.

We express our heartfelt condolences to your bereaved family on the sad demise of your mother.

Again, we extend our deepest sympathies to you and your family during this period of mourning.

Our deepest condolences,

U Kyaw Moe Naing

Managing Director

Lighting Specialist Co Ltd & Staff



**A fishing boat carried illegal migrants is seen near Mersin province of Turkey, on 7 Dec, 2014. The coast guard and police arrested 361 illegal migrants, including Iraqis and Syrians, in two separate operations. The illegal migrants was on their way to Europe by fishing boat, according to Turkey's Daily News on 7 Dec.—XINHUA**

## Okazaki nets 8<sup>th</sup> goal of season



**Japan's Shinji Okazaki of Mainz (3<sup>rd</sup> from L) scores during the second half of a game against Hamburg SV in Hamburg, Germany, on 7 Dec, 2014. It was his eighth goal of the Bundesliga season. Hamburg SV won 2-1.—KYODO NEWS**

HAMBURG, Germany, 8 Dec — Japan striker Shinji Okazaki scored his eighth goal of the Bundesliga season in Mainz's 2-1 defeat away to Hamburg SV on Sunday.

Okazaki nodded in an 89<sup>th</sup>-minute corner that did little to console Mainz, who were thoroughly outplayed by the hosts in losing their second in a row.

"I couldn't get the position I wanted on the previous corner so I was hoping to have another chance, and I got one," Okazaki said.

Okazaki, though, lamented missing a header just before the final whistle that could have salvaged his team a point.

"It would've been a draw had I put that away," he said. "I'll make sure to take the next chance I get. Today's first half was the worst first half we've had this season."

Mainz are 11<sup>th</sup> in the table, 20 points off the pace of leaders Bayern Munich. They have two games left before the winter break.

Kyodo News

## MYANMAR TV

(9-12-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am

\* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

\* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

\* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

\* People Talks

8:00 am

\* News / International News

8:30 am

\* TV Drama Series

9:45 am

\* Business News

10:00 am

\* News

10:50 am

\* Traditional Boxing

11:10 am

\* Documentary (France)

12:00 noon

\* News / International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

\* Myanmar Video

3:15 pm

\* TV Drama Series

4:45 pm

\* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —First Years (Maths)

5:00 pm

\* News

6:20 pm

\* Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:20 pm

\* Teleplay

8:00 pm

\* News / International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

\* Current Affairs

9:00 pm

\* News

\* Mono Classical Songs

\* TV Drama Series

## MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-12-14 07:00 am~

10-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Product Of Myanmar - Stone Of The Heavens
- \* World News
- \* Temple Stalls
- \* Local News
- \* U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II)
- \* World News
- \* Philatelic Pleasure
- \* Local News
- \* Yu Suk Dance of Chin National
- \* World News
- \* Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- \* Local News
- \* Food Trip-(EP-6)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Movie Review "Thet Tan Thit"
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode-1) The Culture Of Pennant Pillar
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- \* Local News
- \* U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-I)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Puppet
- \* Local News
- \* Taste Of Myanmar (Shan Style Clay Pot)
- \* World News
- \* The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
- \* Local News
- \* Youth of the Future: (Vocalist, L-Jar Ngaing)
- \* World News
- \* In The Studio "Zaw Lin Oo"

## Late drama in store after predictable group stage

BERNE, 8 Dec — Five knockout stage places are up for grabs in the Champions League this week, offering enough late drama to stop the final round of group matches from turning into a damp squib.

Eleven teams are already through from a group stage which has produced too many one-sided matches for comfort.

Only half of the matches involve teams playing for a place in the last 16 while the remainder will decide who wins each group, gaining a theoretical advantage for the draw, or qualifies for the Europa League.

Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona, Bayer Leverkusen, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich, Arsenal, Chelsea, Paris St Germain, Porto and Shakhtar Donetsk have already qualified by securing a top-two finish in the four-team groups.

Italian pair Juventus and AS Roma and English Premiership duo Manchester City and Liverpool are among 11 sides battling to join them and Roma's match at home to Manchester City on Wednesday is the highlight.

Roma, City and CSKA Moscow all have five points in Group E, but the head-to-head system favours Roma who need a win to qualify, or a draw if CSKA fail to beat runaway leaders Bayern.

Such a scenario barely looked likely when Roma lost 7-1 at home to Bayern, but City's defeat at home to CSKA has thrown the race wide open.

English champions City need to win and hope CSKA do not beat Bayern while the Russians can only qualify if they win and Roma do not beat City.

The situation is simpler in Group B where Liverpool must beat Basel to follow



**Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez scores a goal past Borussia Dortmund's goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller (C) during their Champions League group D soccer match in London on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS**

Real Madrid through, while the Swiss need a draw to oust the five-times European champions. Basel qualified for the last 16 at the expense of Manchester United three seasons ago and Real coach Carlo Ancelotti believes they could repeat the trick.

"They're in better shape than Liverpool at the moment, they are in very good physical condition," he said after his side won 1-0 in

Basel 10 days ago. "At this moment Basel have a slight advantage."

In Group C, Monaco need a draw at home to Zenit St Petersburg to follow Bayer Leverkusen through, while the Russians need a win.

If the game ends goalless, Monaco will qualify despite having scored only two goals in six games, one less than the previous low set

by AS Roma in 2002/03 and Villarreal in 2005/06.

Serie A champions Juventus need a point at home to Atletico Madrid on Tuesday to avoid a repeat of last season's failure to make it beyond the group stage.

If they lose and Olympiakos beat Malmo at home, the Greek champions would qualify instead.

The final place at stake is in Group G where a draw at Chelsea will be enough for Sporting Lisbon if German rivals Schalke 04 fail to win in Maribor.

The Bundesliga side, thrashed 5-0 at home by Chelsea in their previous match, must beat the Slovenian champions and hope Sporting lose.

The draw for the round of 16 is on 15 December where the eight group winners will be seeded. They could find Barcelona lurking in pot two if the Catalans fail to beat Paris St Germain at home in Wednesday's heavyweight clash and finish second in Group F.

The scoring race between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo will continue to provide a distraction.

Barcelona's Messi reached a Champions League record of 74 goals in their last game while Real Madrid's Ronaldo has 71 and will see the game at home to eliminated Ludogorets Razgrad as a chance to close the gap.

Reuters



# Hat-trick and 400<sup>th</sup> Barca goal for Messi

BARCELONA, 8 Dec — Lionel Messi scored yet another hat-trick and surpassed 400 club goals as Barcelona came from behind to win the Catalan derby 5-1 against Espanyol in La Liga on Sunday. The Argentine, who holds the La Liga and Champions League scoring records, produced a now familiar devastating performance to take his record to 402 goals for Barca in all competitions, including 28 in friendlies. Messi produced his tour de force just a day after Cristiano Ronaldo, his rival for title of world's best player, scored a La Liga record 23<sup>rd</sup> hat-trick against Celta Vigo in a 3-0 win for leaders Real Madrid.

The win left Barca in second place in La Liga, two points behind Real. Messi may have two fewer La Liga hat-tricks than Ronaldo but he has 29 to the Portuguese striker's 27 in official matches for their Spanish clubs.

Former Barca player Sergio Garcia put Espanyol ahead at the Nou Camp but Messi, who had earlier hit the crossbar with a free kick, equalised before halftime, his landmark 400<sup>th</sup> goal coming with a clinical strike from the edge of the area.

Shortly after the break, Luis Suarez found the Argentine and he again hit the corner of the net from a similar distance.

Espanyol were in disarray and Gerard Pique was allowed a free header from a corner to add to the lead after 53 minutes. Substitute Pedro latched onto a long ball from Jordi Alba to grab another and, with nine minutes remaining, he set up Messi for a brilliantly executed third. "Until the first goal the game was at a slow tempo which is what we are used to as rivals just pack the defence," Barca coach Luis Enrique told a news conference. "When we conceded, the doubts came and we couldn't find an end product to our play. The key came with the goal before the break and then after that it was all a lot easier."



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (3rd R) scores his second goal against Espanyol during their Spanish first division soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 7 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

David Moyes, the former Manchester United manager, suffered his first defeat as coach of Real Sociedad as they were crushed 4-0 at Villarreal. The floodgates opened in the second half after an Enaut Zubikarai

own goal, with Denis Cheryshev adding another before a late double from Moi Gomez. Valencia's Champions League hopes took a further blow as they were held 1-1 away to Granada and lie fifth on 25 points.

Alvaro Negredo scored his first goal in a Valencia shirt but the visitors were then reduced to 10 men with Paco Alcacer sent off in the 86th and Isaac Success grabbed an equaliser two minutes from the end.—Reuters

## Liverpool in last chance saloon



Liverpool's manager Brendan Rodgers

LONDON, 8 Dec — Liverpool have reached last chance saloon in the Champions League and only victory against Swiss champions FC Basel on Tuesday will spare them being left out in the cold. Third in Group B, level on four points with Bulgarian side Ludogorets, Liverpool are two points behind Basel and 11 points adrift of unbeaten group winners Real Madrid and have no more wriggle room after a disappointing campaign so far. After a four-year absence Liverpool's return to a tournament in which they have such a rich history has been an anti-climax but a first victory since September would see them snatch a last 16 spot at the expense of the Swiss side. Basel, who beat Liverpool 1-0 in October, need just a draw. While Liverpool would have hoped to have performed better — their only win so far was a narrow one against Ludogorets at home — the stage is set for one of Anfield's special nights. "We will get great support and there will be energy," Rodgers, whose side suffered a disappointing 0-0 draw at home to Sunderland on Saturday, told the Liverpool Echo.

"I remember against Zenit St Petersburg (in 2013)

we needed to win by two goals and went 1-0 down early on which meant we had to win by three. We then came back to win the game 3-1. "We could not muster that last goal. But it showed then that the support and the players coming together can be a real force. I am looking at that as being a big advantage for us. I am really looking forward to the atmosphere." "For us, we could not have wanted any more than to go to Anfield on Tuesday night needing to win the game to get qualified. It's perfect," he added. Basel's win against the Reds in October was their fourth in succession against English opposition in the competition and the Swiss Champions have lost just one of their last nine meetings with English sides. After Basel succumbed to a spirited 1-0 home defeat against holders Madrid last month, the Spanish side's manager Carlo Ancelotti told reporters: "I believe Basel is currently better than Liverpool. "Basel's players are fit and the team is motivated, I think Basel has a small advantage over Liverpool." Basel manager Paulo Sousa, who was replaced by Rodgers as Swansea City manager in 2010, told reporters that his side hold a slight advantage over Liverpool, virtue of their performance against the Spanish giants. "I think Ancelotti is right, as we were the team that caused Real Madrid with the most difficulties in this Champions League group so far," he said.—Reuters

## Spieth, at top of his game, takes aim at McIlroy

WINDERMERE, 8 Dec — Jordan Spieth, who created a buzz when at 19 when he became the youngest player to win a PGA Tour event in 82 years, is playing the best golf of his 21-year-old life and taking aim at top ranked Rory McIlroy.

Spieth followed up a six-stroke victory at last week's Australian Open with a 10-shot romp at the Hero World Challenge at Isleworth on Sunday to end his year inside the world top 10 at number nine.

If not for a rare four-putt on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole at Dunlop Phoenix in Japan, it might have been a hat-trick for the Texan, who finished one shot behind there.

"Right now, (my game) is at its highest level it's ever been," Spieth

said after his final-round 66 for 26-under-par 262 and a 10-stroke victory over Swede Henrik Stenson.

"This is the best I've ever played, which is what I said in a media centre in Sydney last week. I played better this week."

Spieth made a huge splash when he won the 2013 John Deere Classic in a playoff. Now he has designs on winning majors and climbing to the top of the world rankings.

"In order to take it to the next level and try and win majors, I got to look to Rory," Spieth said of the 25-year-old Northern Irishman, who won the last two majors — the British Open and PGA Championship — to take his haul to four. "He's the youngest

guy, the one with the most success. He's number one in the world and setting the bar. He's the one we're all chasing," added Spieth, who held the Masters lead during the final round before finishing joint second.

"I think I did a good job of starting that chase these last couple of weeks. That's only really the beginning of what needs to happen for the ultimate goal, which is to overtake him."

Reuters



Jordan Spieth of the US hits his tee shot on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole during the final round of the Australian Open golf tournament at The Australian Golf Club in Sydney, on 30 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

## LA Galaxy beat Revolution for record fifth MLS title

CARSON, 8 Dec — Irish striker Robbie Keane grabbed an extra-time winner as LA Galaxy won a record fifth Major League

Soccer title with a 2-1 victory over the New England Revolution in Sunday's championship-deciding MLS Cup.



Los Angeles Galaxy forward Robbie Keane (7) battles for the ball with New England Revolution defender AJ Soares (5) in the second half during the 2014 MLS Cup final at StubHub Center.—REUTERS

Keane, voted the league's Most Valuable Player, gave the Galaxy the victory after New England's Chris Tierney had cancelled out Gyasi Zardes' 52nd minute opener for LA.

With the loss, the Revolution's miserable record in title games continued as they were condemned to a fifth defeat in their fifth MLS Cup appearance.

LA have won three of the last four league titles but their latest was far from a classic display.

"We weren't that good on the day to push us into overtime and make us have to suffer a little bit more was probably appropriate because we weren't as good

as we needed to be," said Galaxy coach Bruce Arena.

"(But) this is the best place I have ever been in my life....this year for me has personally been so rewarding. They are just a great group of guys and I am so happy for them".

The game marked MLS and U.S. national team all-time top scorer Landon Donovan's final game before his retirement and he ended the game embracing Galaxy fans.

"There's no experience like just what happened," Donovan said.

"I can't imagine anything that will replace that in my life going forward".

Reuters